PRESIDENT: Yes. Representations have been personally made to me by unemployed persons of the Cashewnut Factories in Quilon. I have also received representations from unemployed persons of South Travancore and of North Travancore. It has been decided that doles of rice will be given to them until they get employment.

Coir factories in the Vaikom Taluk.

207 *MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of coir factories in the Vaikom taluk,

(*b*) the total number of employees who were working in all these factories; and

(*c*) the number of factories where work is being carried on at present?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) 5.

(*b*) Information is not available.

(*c*) Nil.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know how the Director of Industries got the figure 5 with reference to part (a) of the question?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: I got the figure from the report of the Board of Conciliation constituted in connection with the Mats and Mattings Industries disputes.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know why these factories were closed down?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS Because, due to war, the output of these factories could not find markets and so the factories were forced to close down.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know the proportion of unemployed factory labourers to unemployed non-factory labourers?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS. I am not sure of the proportion. But a large proportion are non-factory labourers.

Coir factories closed down in the State.

208 *MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of coir factories closed down in the State due to the recent war situation and the consequent lull in business;

(*b*) the approximate number of labourers employed in the above factories who have been thrown out of employment;

(*c*) the approximate number of non-factory coir labourers in the State who have been thrown out of employment as a consequence of war situation;

(*d*) the regions or taluks chiefly affected by the unemployment among coir labourers (both non-factory and factory) in the State; and

(*e*) the steps taken by the Government so far for amelioration of the deplorable condition of the coir labourers in the State?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) About 290.

(*b*) About 30,000.

(*c*) Information is not available.

(*d*) Ambalapuzha, Shertallai and part of Vaikom.

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[Mr. C. Kumara Das]

(e) Arrangements are in progress for taking measures to expand the existing markets and also for finding fresh markets for coir goods. Other measures of relief, such as the taking up of large scale public works for finding employment to the unemployed coir factory labourers are being contemplated. Doles of rice are also being distributed as an interim measure.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: with regard to answer to part (a) of the question may I know whether these are the only taluks where the people are engaged in coir industry?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: These three taluks relate mostly to factory labourers. There are other taluks where there are non-factory labourers.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Sir, my question was this. "Will the Government be pleased to state the regions or taluks chiefly affected by the unemployment among coir labourers (both factory and non-factory) in the State." The answer given is as follows.— "Ambalapzha, Shertallai and part of Vaikom." May I know whether Chirayinkil also is not to be included in the list?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes. In Chirayinkil also a great number of non-factory labourers have been thrown out of employment.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: Does the Honurable member know in the Kartigapally taluk also a large number of non-factory labourers are effected?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes, Sir. That taluk can also be included.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI (*Karunagapalli* cum *Kartikapalli*): In Parur also does the Honourable member know that unemployment is rampant among the coir workers?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Parur can also be included in the list.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*): പറവൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ എത്ര പേരുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The information is not available.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know what arrangements are being made to relieve the distress among these employed labourers?

PRESIDENT: The answer is there.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Is there anything like a distress relief fund set apart for Quilon?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Just at present, the Committee have thought only of Ambalapuzha, Shertallai and Vaikom. Further steps will be taken in future.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Is it the idea of government to carry out a Public Works scheme to relieve the distress af the unemployed labourers?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: As a matter of fact three works were suggested by the Committee for the relief of the unemployed labourers in Quilon. And, instructions to this effect have been sent to the Division Officer at Quilon.

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MR. KINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*) : Sir, in reply to a previous question it was stated that relief measures will be extended to all parts of the State. Now it is stated that the whole amount is alloted to Alleppey only. How am I to reconcile that ?

PRESIDENT : I think there is some confusion over this matter. The problem presented itself actually to Government in Alleppey and in its environs where it was found that the coir manufacturers could not ship their goods and so had to dis-enroll many of their employees. When investigation took place in regard to the plight of the labourers so thrown out of employment, it came to light that there were a good number of persons of small-scale factories who were also thrown out of employment. On a rough calculation, the total number of unemployed labourers come to about twenty to thirty thousand who were nearly starving. As time could not be lost, immediate arrangements were made in regard to them primarily. As soon as the honourable members of the House and various other persons came to know of this, they, not unnaturally, put forward the claims of their localities and Government had, in order to deal with that matter, to take a kind of conspectus of all those local claims. If it is beyond the reach of Government to deal with the problem adequately then it may be that new measures will have to be contemplated. The idea is to render help firstly to Alleppey-Shertallai area and secondly to Quilon-Chirayinkil area by specially starting down P. W. D. Works. But we may have to face a more serious situation caused by the repercussions of the present situation.

Unemployment among the people employed in coir industry in Chirayinkil taluk.

209 ***MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN** (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that the people employed in coir industry in the coastal villages of Chirayinkil taluk are out of employment at present ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they have made any arrangement for the amelioration of their condition ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : (a) Yes.

(*b*) Arrangements are in progress for taking measures to expand the market for coir goods and to find fresh markets, and when these are achieved, it is hoped that there will be work available for those who may be now out of employment.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know whether it is known to Government that 50% of the coir workers are women and children ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : Yes Sir.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN : May I know Sir, whether any immediate relief is made available to them ?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS : Well, Sir, I have already said that steps are bieng taken to alleviate their distress.

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